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# SURVEY OF HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

## THE SOCIETY AND THE STATE

During the three months' period ending April 6, 1921 there were seventy-one additions to the membership roll of the State Historical Society. Seven of these enrolled as life members, as follows: John Boler, Sawyer; Edward G. Broennimann, New York City; Col. Arthur L. Conger, Washington, D. C.; Adolph R. Janecky, Racine; Judson G. Rosebush, Appleton; Frederick D. Underwood, New York City; Francis J. Webb, Duluth, Minn.

Fifty persons became annual members of the Society: Mrs. W. H. Allen, Medford; Dr. Bernhard F. Bellack, Columbus; Edward W. Blaisdell, Waukesha; Mary E. Chadwick, Watertown; Mrs. W. H. Chesbrough, Beloit; Lyle E. Douglass, Waukesha; Daniel F. Enos, Waukesha; Hans P. Fuley, Hayward; John H. Gage, Wauwatosa; Mabel E. Griswold, Madison; Mrs. D. A. Hadley, Oconomowoc; Winifred E. Hale, Waukesha; George McClellan Harley, Webster; Erle S. Harrison, Waukesha; Rolla M. Heath, Waukesha; Wilfred L. Heindel, South Wayne; Leopold L. Imig, Sheboygan; Mrs. Charlotte Gasmann Johnson, Amherst; Lillia E. Johnson, Eau Claire; Alvin L. Jung, Milwaukee; Mrs. Clarence J. Klopff, Madison; Rudolph R. Knorr, Milwaukee; Sophelia Kurkowski, Amherst; Mrs. Charles G. McGlashan, Madison; Rev. Samuel M. MacNeill, Wauwatosa; William Meyer, Milwaukee; Hans H. Mieding, Milwaukee; Eric R. Miller, Madison; Mrs. Nellie Okey Mink, Lancaster; Alexander R. Mueller, Milwaukee; Philip J. Ott, Milwaukee; D. S. Peck, Hayward; Hugh Pomeroy, Appleton; Louis Quarles, Milwaukee; Carroll Quimby, Sheboygan; Herman E. Rehwald, Racine; John C. Schmidtman, Manitowoc; Adolph G. Schwefel, Milwaukee; Otto F. Schwefel, Watertown; Harlan G. Seyforth, Ellsworth; Herman A. Starcke, Glidden; Willis E. Switzer, Wabeno; Mrs. B. M. Vaughan, Wisconsin Rapids; Robert O. Wanvig, Milwaukee; William E. Webb, Lancaster; Dr. Thomas R. Welch, Rhinelander; Ella Sage Wilder, Watertown; George F. Wilder, Seattle, Wash.; Milford Witts, Watertown; Mrs. H. N. Zufelt, Sheboygan.

Fourteen institutions entered the Society as Wisconsin school members as follows: The Day School for the Deaf at Appleton; the State Normal School at Eau Claire; and the high schools at Ashland, Belleville, Birnamwood, Dodgeville, Fort Atkinson, Greenwood, Hixton (Union Free High School), Marshfield, Mayville, Milwaukee (South Division High School), Muscoda, and Oconto Falls.

During this period three annual members changed to the life membership class: Theodore Brazeau, Wisconsin Rapids; Belle L. Fleek, Brodhead; Henry A. Foster, Appleton.

General Frederick C. Winkler of Milwaukee died March 22 at the age of eighty-three. A native of Germany, General Winkler was brought to Milwaukee by his parents when six years of age, and that

city remained his home for more than three-quarters of a century. Admitted to the bar in 1859, he had but fairly begun practice when he laid his profession aside to enter upon the war for the Union. He rose to the rank of colonel of the Twenty-sixth Wisconsin and at the close of the war was brevetted brigadier-general for meritorious service. Returning to Milwaukee and his law practice, General Winkler was for half a century one of the foremost attorneys of Wisconsin. He witnessed the growth of Milwaukee from a small town to a city of almost half a million, and in that growth he bore an active and honorable part. He was publicly characterized by Theodore Roosevelt, not long before that great American's death, as "a man whom I have always considered a model for me and my sons to follow as an American citizen of the highest and best type." General Winkler was an old-time member of the State Historical Society.

Charles McCarthy, head of the Legislative Reference Library of Wisconsin, died untimely in Arizona, March 26, 1921. His career was of the picturesque, impossible sort that we are prone to hail as typically American. The son of poor Irish immigrants, in youth he was apprenticed to a shoemaker. Disliking the trade, he ran away to sea and served a term as cabin boy on a schooner. The books he found in the cabin on the long voyage so whetted his ambition for an education that at its close he presented himself at Brown University with a request for admission. But the university's scheme of things made no provision for one so irregularly prepared as the runaway cabin boy, and the request was refused. A direct appeal to the president of the university brought about a reconsideration and an arrangement whereby McCarthy was admitted. The penniless youth, working nights to provide the means of existence, soon became one of the most brilliant athletes in the history of the university. The character of his intellectual achievement is sufficiently indicated in the fact that less than twenty years after his first discouraging interview with the authorities at Brown, the university called him back to bestow upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature.

Dr. McCarthy's real life work was performed at Madison, whither he came in 1899 to study in the University. He became director of the Legislative Reference Library in 1901, in which position he continued until his death. So real a need did this institution fill in the practical workings of American government, that it has now become a commonplace throughout the nation. When America entered the Great War, the splendid showing which Wisconsin was enabled to make in that struggle was due in no small measure to the fertile brain and driving enthusiasm of Dr. McCarthy. Drafted into the national service, he served for many months as personal aid to Mr. Hoover in the Food Administration. At the conclusion of this service he returned to Madison, with health undermined, to resume the interrupted duties of the Reference Library. His career in Wisconsin, like his personality, was unique. The place he has vacated will not easily be filled.

Although his life work lay in another field, Dr. McCarthy possessed historical talent of a high order. He was a diligent collector of data in fields seemingly far removed from his regular work. Thus, he was a careful student of the race problem in America, and accumulated a large amount of data bearing on this subject. He was for many years a member of the State Historical Society.

The Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institution of Washington is collecting the material for an edition, in several volumes, of the correspondence of Andrew Jackson, to be edited by Professor John S. Bassett of Smith College, Jackson's biographer. All persons who possess letters of General Jackson or important letters to him, or who know where there are collections of his correspondence, or even single letters, would confer a favor by writing to Dr. J. F. Jameson, director of the department named, 1140 Woodward Building, Washington, D. C.

#### THE KELLY DIARIES

The Society has recently come into possession of the diaries of Mrs. Jane B. Kelly of Dane County, extending in time from 1866 to 1898 with only a few omissions. These little volumes record the life of a plain country woman, whose days were made up of hard work, who was often tired, and frequently anxious about her family and friends. The writer was a woman of deep piety and real religious experience; the quarterly meetings of the Methodist Church to which she belonged were times of refreshment for her spirit. Later in life she attended the Monona Assembly, heard the concerts and lectures there given, and gives her impressions of lecturers like Neal Dow, Frances Willard, Schuyler Colfax, and others. From these diaries we may learn the routine of life for women on a farm fifty years ago. The prices of farm products and clothing may also be garnered from these volumes. Best of all they record the home life of true and virtuous people of the middle class that rear children to strengthen all that is valuable in the civilization of our community and state.

*Wisconsin.* By J. F. A. Pyre. New York. Oxford University Press, American Branch. 1920. 419p.

The University of Wisconsin is doubly the child of fortune: First, in having so significant a history to narrate and interpret; and second, in having a historian who is equal to the requirements which that history imposes upon its narrator and interpreter. Professor Pyre has produced a real book—a book which combines in an uncommon degree accurate, painstaking research, sound reflection, insight, and artistic treatment. These qualities should place the work among the permanent possessions of historical literature along with Thwaites's *Wisconsin* and Turner's *Rise of the New West*, to mention only two of the books which have grown out of this fruitful historical soil.